

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJECT: MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROJECTION FY 80

1. SUMMARY. THE FY 78 IMET PROGRAM WAS INITIATED AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR AND IT APPEARED THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY TO ABSORB THE AUTHORIZED STUDENT SPACES. THE MIN WAR INITIALLY INDICATED HE WAS RELUCTANT TO SEND MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF STUDENTS FOR CONUS TRAINING, BUT NOW DESIRES A LARGE INCREASE. ALTHOUGH THE FY 79 PROGRAM WAS INCREASED TO FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IT NOW APPEARS THAT IT WILL BE INSUFFICIENT TO FILL LEGITIMATE NEEDS WITHIN THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE FY 80 IMET PROGRAM BE INCREASED TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND CONTINUED ANNUALLY AT THAT LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT SADAT AND SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THEY DESIRE THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES TO ABANDON SOVIET TRAINING METHODS AND TACTICS FOR
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THOSE OF THE WEST. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE SMALL NUMBER OF OFFICERS TRAINED IN THE WEST AND, PARTICULARLY AS THERE HAS BEEN A GENERATION SINCE THESE OFFICERS (TO INCLUDE OLDER OFFICERS SUCH AS THE MINISTER OF WAR GENERAL GAMASY WHO ATTENDED A COURSE IN CARLISLE BARRACKS, 1948/49) HAD THEIR WESTERN TRAINING, WILL SOON BE RETIRING, IMPLEMENTING SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION BECOMES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. UNDER THE IMET FY 78 PROGRAM (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) 13 OFFICER STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE TRAINING IN THE USA. ALTHOUGH THE FY 79 IMET PROGRAM WILL BE INCREASED TO FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, IT WILL PERMIT THE PROGRAMING OF ONLY 29 OFFICER STUDENTS IN THE USA. WHEN THE SIZE OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES OF APPROXIMATELY 500,000 MEN IS CONSIDERED, IT CAN BE SEEN THAT THIS IS A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENT SPACES, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE LONG HIATUS IN CONUS TRAINING.

4. AN EXPANDED TRAINING PROGRAM WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF SUPPORT FOR THE MODERATE REGIME IN EGYPT BY FACILITATING GOE'S PLAN TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF MILITARY TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE USSR TO THE WEST AND ADDITIONALLY WILL RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE LOST WITH THE GENERATION OF EGYPTIAN OFFICERS ABOUT TO MOVE INTO SENIOR POSITIONS. IT SHOULD APPRECIABLY STRENGTHEN OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

5. THE TRAINING WHICH WILL BE OFFERED IS THE PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION TYPE TRAINING WITH MATERIEL-RELATED TRAINING LIMITED TO SPECIFIC MILITARY PURCHASES. GENERAL GAMASY HAS STATED THAT HE DESIRES THE MORE SENIOR LEVEL AND MID-LEVEL COURSES AS OPPOSED TO JUNIOR OR MATERIEL
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RELATED COURSES. HE WOULD LIKE AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OFFICER STUDENT SPACES IN THE USA. GAMASY DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT TRAINING IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT HE BELIEVES USG IS UNLIKELY TO BE WILLING TO SELL TO EGYPT.

6. BASED ON THE ABOVE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE FY 80 IMET PROGRAM BE INCREASED TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AT THAT LEVEL. EILTS.

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